



Mthatha Express

Express

11 Aug

UWSC continues to march for plight of women

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UWSC beneficiaries, led by Koliwe Nongauza are leading the fight against gender-based violence. Photo: SUPPLIED

As the country commemorates Women's Month, under the theme, "Women's Socioeconomic Rights and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Resilience", civil society organisations like Umtata Women Support Centre (UWSC) make it their daily mission to provide gainful employment opportunities, psychosocial support and counselling to women who experience gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic abuse.

Based in Mthatha, the organisation creates a safe space for women and provides holistic healing interventions that target physical, spiritual, psychological and financial wellness.

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Born into a nuclear family of nine children in Willowvale Village of Mbhashe, she aspired to become a teacher. She went on to study BCom accounting and personnel management before starting her career at Standard Bank of South Africa until her resignation in 2015 at managerial level.



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UWSC and 64 other emerging and established community organisations received funds for the provision of prevention and direct GBV services across the Eastern Cape from the Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA).

Forty rural women are independent small business owners, have continued to meet and support one another after the sessions and are GBV whistle blowers. About 65 cases abuse have been brought to the attention of social workers from these groups.

“Communities with high levels of social ills are not easy to develop. Despite greater awareness and effective community development programmes, too many women and vulnerable people still experience violation of their human rights and economic exclusion,” said Nongauza.

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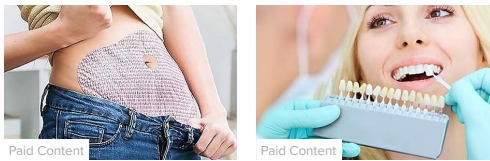
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